

(11)特許出願公開番号

(43)公開日 平成7年(1995)6月16日

技術表示箇所

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】 2つの基板トレイを対向するようにかつ縦姿勢で保持し成膜に必要な各工程を行う各処理室間を移動することで基板トレイ上の基板に成膜を行うマルチチャンバ式成膜装置において、中間室と、一連の成膜工程に必要な各工程のうちのひとつをそれぞれが行う複数の処理室と、中間室の側面に前記複数の処理室の数よりひとつ多く設けられ、各処理室のひとつを接続するための同一形状の接続部と、前記接続部より中間室側に取り付けられる仕切弁と、各処理室と同じ構成を有する各処理室の予備室とを備え、次にメンテナンスを行う処理室と同じ構成を有する予備室を前記接続部のひとつに接続するようにしたことを特徴とするマルチチャンバ成膜装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明は薄膜製造プロセスにより生産される液晶ディスプレイ等を量産するために用いるスパッタリング装置やプラズマCVD装置などのマルチチャンバ成膜装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来、薄膜トランジスタやカラーフィルタ用ITO膜など各種の薄膜デバイスを形成する場合には、スパッタリング装置やプラズマCVD装置が用いられる。これらの装置では、生産性を向上するために複数の成膜室を直列的に並べたインライン縦型2面方式の装置が用いられている。インライン縦型2面方式の装置は、装置稼働中のスルーブットは良好であるが、メンテナンスのために複数の成膜室のなかの1室を停止するとき、その成膜室だけでなく装置の全室を停止させる必要があり、稼働率が低かった。そのため、稼働中のスルーブットは良好であっても、メンテナンス時間をも考慮した生産性からみれば生産性は低かった。また、インライン方式ではチャンバの拡張や交換が困難であり、成膜工程変更のためには長期間装置を停止して改造をしなければならなかった。

【0003】 これに対し、装置の稼働率を向上し、しかも生産性がよい装置として、特願平2-260844号で記載したマルチチャンバ式成膜装置がある。

【0004】 これは、複数の成膜室と、ロード室（基板カート搬入室）とアンロード室（基板カート搬出室）とを中間室の周囲に配設し、ロード室から搬入した縦型2面成膜用基板カートを中間室を介して各成膜室に搬入し、各成膜室で成膜を行うものである。また、この装置の特徴をいかしてさらに稼働率を向上するために同種の成膜工程を行う成膜室を2対ずつ具備して2組の室群を構成するようにして、一方の室群がメンテナンスのため停止する際に他方の室群にて成膜運転を続行するようにすることが記載されている。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 しかしながら前記従来のマルチチャンバ式成膜装置において一方の室群がメンテナンス中も成膜を続行できるようにするためには、同種の成膜を行う成膜室が2対ずつ必要であることから装置が大型化することとなった。すなわち、薄膜デバイス製造に必要な薄膜工程が1層のときは2室、2層のときは4室、3層のときは6室が必要となり、その積層数が増加することに室数が2倍で増加し、大型化することとなり、設置面積が広がることとなった。特に、本装置では中間室を中心にしてこれから放射状に成膜室を設置するため、室数が増加すると隣の成膜室と干渉することからこれを防ぐため成膜室と中間室との距離を離すための連絡室を設ける必要があり、ますます大型化することになった。

【0006】 最近の各種薄膜デバイスでは、その品質を向上するために積層膜で作られる製品が多く、しかもこれらの製品は通常クリーンルーム内で製造されることから成膜装置もクリーンルーム内に設置されることとなる。クリーンルームはその面積が大きいほどクリーン度の維持が困難であり、また維持費も増大することからクリーンルーム内に設置する装置は小型化することが望まれるのに対し、このような大型の装置はなじまないものであった。

【0007】 本発明はマルチチャンバ成膜装置における以上のような問題を解決し、メンテナンス時にも運転が続き、しかも設置面積が大きくならないマルチチャンバ式成膜装置を提供することを目的とする。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】 上記問題を解決するためになされた本発明のマルチチャンバ式成膜装置は、2つの基板トレイを対向するようにかつ縦姿勢で保持し成膜に必要な各工程を行う各処理室間を移動することで基板トレイ上の基板に成膜を行うマルチチャンバ式成膜装置において、中間室と、一連の成膜工程に必要な各工程のうちのひとつをそれぞれが行う複数の処理室と、中間室の側面に前記複数の処理室の数よりひとつ多く設けられ、各処理室のひとつを接続するための同一形状の接続部と、前記接続部より中間室側に取り付けられる仕切弁と、各処理室と同じ構成を有する各処理室の予備室とを備え、次にメンテナンスを行う処理室と同じ構成を有する予備室を前記接続部のひとつに接続するようにしたことを特徴とする。

【0009】 以下、この構造のマルチチャンバ式成膜装置がどのように作用するかを説明する。

【0010】

【作用】 本発明のマルチチャンバ式成膜装置では、薄膜製造プロセスに必要な工程に応じて必要な処理室、すなわち各薄膜層のための成膜室と、基板を装置に搬入するロード室と、搬入と搬出を別にするときにはさらに搬出用のアンロード室と、予備加熱が必要なものでは予備加

熱室と、基板冷却が必要なときは基板冷却室と、基板クリーニングが必要なものであれば基板クリーニング室とが中間室の周囲に取り付けられ、これらの室に順次基板カートが送られて所定の成膜工程がなされる。

【0011】成膜を繰り返すうちにメンテナンスが必要な室が生じる。メンテナンスの原因としては、成膜室についてはチャンバ壁に付着した薄膜などの洗浄作業やスパッタリング装置ではターゲット交換作業であり、予備加熱室ではヒータの断線修理や洗浄作業であり、基板クリーニング室では洗浄作業であり、その室ごとにそれぞれの理由により定期的にあるいは偶発的にメンテナンスを行う必要が生じる。本発明では各室のうち、つぎに最優先でメンテナンスしなければならない室と同じ構成を有する予備室を予備室接続部に接続する。そしてこの予備室接続終了後、接続した予備室をこれまで使用してメンテナンスが必要となった室のかわりに使用する。つづいて、これまで使用してメンテナンスが必要となった室と中間室との仕切弁を閉にしてこの室を装置から切り離す。そして、切り離れた室を別の場所へ移動して必要なメンテナンスを行い、次のメンテナンス時にすぐに装置に接続できる状態にしておく。

【0012】装置からメンテナンスが必要となって室が切り離されたところは、新たな予備室の接続部となる。ここに次にメンテナンスが必要な室と同じ構成を有する予備室を前回と同様に接続し、以下同様の作業を繰り返す。

【0013】このようにすることで、中間室には、一連の成膜工程に必要な処理室とさらにひとつの予備室が追加接続されるだけとなるので、装置の設置面積が小さいにもかかわらず、メンテナンス時も連続的に装置を稼働することができる。

【0014】

【実施例】以下、本発明の実施例を図を用いて説明する。

【0015】第1図は本発明による一実施例を示したマルチチャンバ式スパッタリング装置の平面図である。図において、本装置の中央には中間室1が配置されている。この中間室1は五角柱形状に形成されていて、その各側面1a～1eには同一形状の仕切弁2a～2eが設けられている。そして各仕切弁2a～2dにはプロセスに必要な各処理室が接続されている。すなわち、仕切弁2aにはロード室3が、仕切弁2bには加熱室4が、仕切弁2cには第1スパッタリング室5（A1成膜）、仕切弁2dには第2スパッタリング室6（ITO成膜）がそれぞれ放射状に接続されている。そして、残りの仕切弁2eには後述するように新しい予備室としての予備加熱室4'が将来接続される。

【0016】中間室1に接続された各処理室3～6、4'以外にさらにロード室3と同形状である予備ロード室3'、第1スパッタリング室5と同形状である予備第

1スパッタリング室5'、第2スパッタリング室6と同形状である予備第2スパッタリング室6'とが装置とは切り離して別置きされている。

【0017】なお、各処理室3～6、3'～6'はすべてユニット化されており、それぞれの処理室の下側にそれぞれの処理室の運転に必要な制御装置（図示しない）をもつとともに、中間室の下側に装置全体の運転を監視制御するための中央の制御装置（図示しない）が設置されている。中央の制御装置は各処理室間の制御を行い、各処理室の制御は各処理室ごとの制御装置が行うようになっている。

【0018】各処理室3～6は仕切弁2a～2eより外側にある接続部7a～7eで中間室1に容易に脱着できるようにボルト接続されるとともに、その各処理室ユニットごとの制御系と中央の制御系との制御系の接続も図示しないコネクタ部分で容易に脱着できるようになっている。

【0019】中間室1内には回転自在の搬送機構であるターンテーブルTが設けられ、縦型2面方式の基板カートがこの上で回転でき、次の工程となる処理室方向に方向転換できるようになっている。

【0020】各処理室のうち、ロード室3および予備ロード室3'には真空排気系と基板カート搬送機構が設けられている。加熱室4および予備加熱室4'には真空排気系と基板カート搬送機構の他にヒータ機構が設けられている。第1スパッタリング室5および予備第1スパッタリング室5'には真空排気系と基板カート搬送機構とA1スパッタリング機構が設けられている。この第1スパッタリング室では小さいターゲットで大面積基板に均一に成膜できるように基板カートを移動しつつ成膜できるようにしてある。また、第2スパッタリング室6および予備第2スパッタリング室6'には真空排気系と基板搬送機構とITOスパッタリング機構とヒータとが設けられている。第2スパッタリング室においても移動成膜ができるようにしてある。

【0021】図2に本発明に用いられる基板カートの断面図を示す。図は基板カートが第2スパッタリング室にあるときを示しており、基板カート10に基板を保持した2つの基板トレイ11が対向するようにしかも鉛直方向に取り付けられる。2つの基板トレイの間には第2スパッタリング室6に取り付けたヒータが通るのに必要な間隔が開けられている。

【0022】基板カート10の下部には車輪があり、各処理室や中間室に設けられたレールの上をころがることで搬送が行われる。

【0023】次に本構成のスパッタリング装置の動作を説明する。まず、2面に基板が載置された基板カートをロード室3に搬入し、大気圧から真空状態になるまで真空排気する。つぎに仕切弁2aを開いて中間室1のターンテーブルに送り出し、仕切弁2aを閉にしてターンテ

ーブルTを回転し、基板カートを第1スパッタリング室5に向けるようにする。所定の向きになると仕切弁2cを開いて基板カートを第1スパッタリング室5に搬送し、仕切弁2cを閉にした後所定の成膜条件に設定してA1の移動成膜を行う。成膜終了後、第1スパッタリング室5を真空に戻して仕切弁2cを開き、基板カートをターンテーブルTまで送り出す。つぎに仕切弁2cを閉にしてターンテーブルTを加熱室4に向け、仕切弁2bを開いて基板カートを加熱室4内に搬送する。仕切弁2bを閉にしたあと所定の条件で加熱し、加熱終了後にターンテーブルTによる同様の搬送を行って第2スパッタリング室6に搬入し、ITO膜の移動成膜を行う。ITO膜の成膜が終了すると基板カートを中間室1を介してロード室3に戻し、室内を真空状態から窒素ガスを導入して大気圧にして基板カートを外部に取り出す。このような一連の動作を繰り返すことで、成膜を連続的に行う。

【0024】加熱室4のヒータが偶発的に断線した場合、予備加熱室4'を仕切弁2eに取り付け、予備加熱室4'の制御系を中央の制御系と接続する。そして、中央の制御系は回目の成膜工程からは仕切弁2bに接続された加熱室4に替えて仕切弁2eに接続された予備加熱室4'が加熱室として使用されるように設定の変更を指示する。これにより、仕切弁2eに接続された予備加熱室4'が次回からは加熱室として動作するとともに、今まで加熱室として動作していた加熱室4は成膜装置のシステムから外される。この状態で仕切弁の外側にある接続部からこの加熱室4を切り離し、別の場所で断線修理のメンテナンス作業を行う。

【0025】続いて、第1スパッタリング室のA1ターゲットが消耗したためターゲット交換する必要があるときに、前回加熱室4に取り付けてあった仕切弁2bに予備第1スパッタリング室5'を接続部7bに接続する。そして、予備第1スパッタリング室5'の制御系を中央の制御系と接続するとともに、次回の成膜から予備第1スパッタリング室5'が第1スパッタリング室5に替わることを指示する。これにより、仕切弁2bに接続された予備第1スパッタリング室5'が次回から第1スパッタリング室として動作するとともに、今までA1のスパッタリング室として動作してきた第1スパッタリング室5がシステムから外される。そして仕切弁2cの外側の接続部から第1スパッタリング室2cが切り離さ

れ、別の場所でターゲット交換作業がなされる。

【0026】これ以降も同様に、次にメンテナンスが必要とされる処理室と同じ構成の予備室をその時点の予備室用接続部に接続することで、メンテナンスのための装置の停止時間が大幅に短縮され、ほとんど連続的に運転が横行できる。

【0027】なお、本発明によるマルチチャンバ式スパッタリング成膜装置では成膜室は移動成膜方式の2室を用いたが、これに限るものではない。

10 【0028】また、本実施例では処理室として成膜室、ロード室、加熱室を有したがこれに限らず、アンロード室、基板冷却室、基板クリーニング室を有しても本発明を実施することができる。また、本発明はスパッタリング装置に限らず、プラズマCVD装置、エッチング装置あるいはこれらの複合装置についても適用できる。

【0029】

【発明の効果】以上、説明したように本発明のマルチチャンバ式成膜装置では成膜工程に必要な各処理室を中間室に対して放射上に接続するとともに、これらの各処理室と同じ形状の予備室を備え、これらのうち回目のメンテナンス作業を行う処理室の予備室を中間室の予備接続部に接続できるようにすることで、メンテナンスのための停止時間を短縮できるとともに、装置の設置スペースを最小限にすることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施例であるスパッタリング装置の平面図。

【図2】本発明の一実施例であるスパッタリング装置基板カートの断面図。

【符号の説明】

1：中間室

2a～2e：仕切弁

3：ロード室、3'：予備ロード室

4：加熱室、4'：予備加熱室

5：第1スパッタリング室、5'：予備第1スパッタリング室

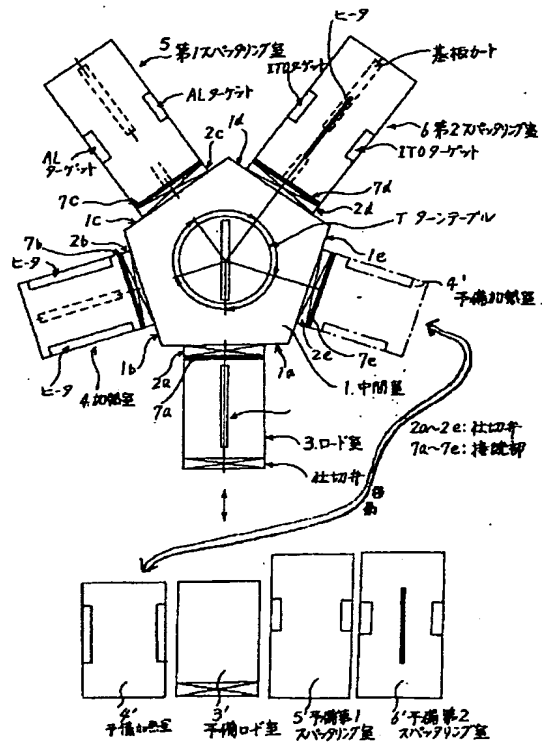
6：第2スパッタリング室、6'：予備第2スパッタリング室

7a～7e：接続部

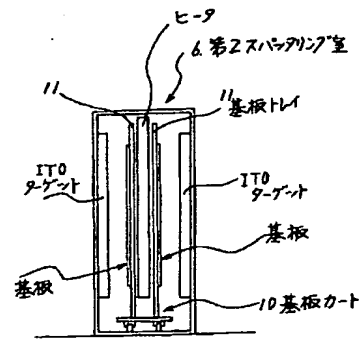
40 10：基板カート

11：基板トレイ

【図1】



【図2】



PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 07-153693

(43)Date of publication of application : 16.06.1995

(51)Int.Cl.

H01L 21/205

(21)Application number : 05-296649

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(22)Date of filing : 26.11.1993

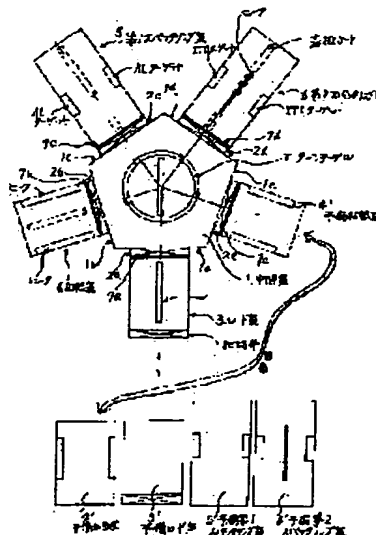
(72)Inventor : SHIMOZATO YOSHIHIRO

(54) MULTICHAMBER TYPE EQUIPMENT FOR FORMING FILM

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain equipment which continues an operation also at the time of maintenance and does not need enlargement of the area of installation, by a construction wherein a preliminary chamber having the same construction as a processing chamber for executing the maintenance is connected to one of a connecting part.

CONSTITUTION: An intermediate chamber 1 is disposed at the center of equipment. This intermediate chamber 1 is formed in the shape of a pentagonal pillar and gate valves 2a to 2e in the same shape are provided on lateral sides 1a to 1e thereof respectively. Processing chambers necessary for processes, i.e., a load chamber 3, a heating chamber 4, a first sputtering chamber 5 and a second sputtering chamber 6, are connected radially to the gate valves 2a to 2d respectively. To the remaining gate valve 2e, a preliminary heating chamber 4' is to be connected when it is needed. In addition to the processing chambers 3 to 6 and 4' connected to the intermediate chamber 1, a preliminary load chamber 3' having the same shape as the load chamber 3, a first preliminary sputtering chamber 5' having the same shape as the first sputtering chamber 5 and a second preliminary sputtering chamber 6' having the same shape as the second sputtering chamber 6 are disposed separately from the equipment.



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[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment which forms membranes to the substrate on a substrate tray by moving between each processing room which holds with a vertical posture and performs each process required for membrane formation so that two substrate trays characterized by providing the following may be countered. Takumi Nakama. Two or more processing rooms where each performs one of each processes required for a series of membrane formation processes. The connection of the same configuration for being prepared in the side of a middle room mostly [one] from the number of two or more aforementioned processing rooms, and connecting one of each of the processing room. The sluice valve attached in a middle room side from the aforementioned connection, and the same composition as each processing room.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] this invention relates to multi chamber membrane formation equipments used in order to mass-produce the liquid crystal display produced according to a thin-film-fabrication process, such as a sputtering system and plasma CVD equipment.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] When forming various kinds of thin film devices, such as TFT and an ITO film for light filters, conventionally, a sputtering system and plasma CVD equipment are used. With these equipments, in order to improve productivity, the equipment of the 2nd page method of an in-line vertical mold which put two or more membrane formation rooms in order in in-series is used. Although it was good, when stopping one in two or more membrane formation rooms for a maintenance, the equipment of the 2nd page method of an in-line vertical mold needed to stop the all rooms of not only the membrane formation room but equipment, and its operating ratio was low. [of the throughput under equipment operation] Therefore, productivity was low, when seeing from the productivity also in consideration of maintenance time, even if the throughput under operation was good. Moreover, by the in-line method, extension and exchange of a chamber were difficult, and in order to be membrane formation process change, it had to convert by suspending prolonged equipment.

[0003] On the other hand, there is multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment with which it improved and productivity moreover indicated the operating ratio of equipment by Japanese Patent Application No. No. 260844 [two to] as good equipment.

[0004] This arranges a membrane formation room, and two or more load rooms (substrate khat carrying-in room) and unload rooms (substrate khat taking-out room) in the circumference of a middle room, carries in to each membrane formation room the substrate khat for the 2nd page membrane formation of a vertical mold carried in from the load room through a middle room, and forms membranes at each membrane formation room. Moreover, in case it stops since one **** is a maintenance as it provides at a time two pairs of membrane formation rooms which perform a membrane formation process of the same kind and 2 sets of **** are constituted, in order to improve an operating ratio further taking advantage of the feature of this equipment, it is indicated that it is made to continue membrane formation operation in **** of another side.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, since the membrane formation room which performs membrane formation of the same kind is the need two pairs at a time in order to enable it to continue membrane formation in the aforementioned conventional multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment, while one **** maintains, equipment will be enlarged. That is, when the number of thin film processes required for thin film device manufacture was one, two rooms were needed at the time of four rooms and three layers, at the time of two-layer, six rooms were needed, whenever the number of laminatings increased, the number of rooms will be increased and enlarged by double precision, and installation area will spread. Especially, with this equipment, since it will interfere with the next membrane formation room if the number of loculus increases, in order to center on a middle room and to install a membrane formation room in a shell radial, in order to prevent this, it is necessary to prepare the connection room for detaching the distance of a membrane formation room and a middle room, and will enlarge increasingly.

[0006] In the latest various thin film devices, since there are many products made from a cascade screen in order to improve the quality, and these products are moreover usually manufactured in a clean room, membrane formation equipment will also be installed in a clean room. Maintenance of an air cleanliness class was so difficult for the clean room that the area was large, and since a sustaining cost also increased, it was that to which such large-sized equipment does not get used to to miniaturize the equipment installed in a clean room being desired.

[0007] this invention solves the above problems in multi chamber membrane formation equipment, operation can be continued also at the time of maintenance NANZU, and it aims at offering the multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment with which installation area moreover does not become large.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment of this invention made in order to solve the above-mentioned problem In the multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment which forms membranes to the substrate on a substrate tray by moving between each processing room which holds with a vertical posture and performs each process required for membrane formation so that two substrate trays may be countered A middle room and two or more processing rooms where each performs one of each processes required for a series of membrane formation processes, The connection of the same configuration for being prepared in the side of a middle room mostly [one] from the number of two or more aforementioned processing rooms, and connecting one of each of the processing room, It is characterized by connecting to one of the aforementioned connections the spare room which has the same composition as the processing room which is equipped with the sluice valve attached in a middle room side, and each processing room and the spare room of each processing room which has the same composition, and next maintains from the aforementioned connection.

[0009] Hereafter, it explains how the multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment of this structure acts.

[0010]

[Function] With the multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment of this invention, a process required for a thin-film-fabrication process is embraced. The membrane formation room for a required processing room, i.e., each thin film layer The load room which carries in a substrate to equipment, and the unload room further for taking out when setting aside carrying in and taking out, In what has required preheating, if a substrate cooling room and substrate cleaning are required

when substrate cooling is required, a preheating room and, a substrate cleaning room will be attached in the circumference of a middle room, a substrate khat is sent to these locus one by one, and a predetermined membrane formation process is made.

[0011] While repeating membrane formation, locus to be maintained arise. At a preheating room, it is open-circuit repair and washing of a heater, and it is washing and it will be necessary for it to be target exchange work, and to maintain periodically or accidentally for each reason for every locus of the at a substrate cleaning room, as a cause of a maintenance, at washing and sputtering systems, such as a thin film which adhered to the chamber wall about the membrane formation room. In this invention, the spare room which has the composition same among each locus as the locus which must be maintained by top priority to the next is connected to a spare-room connection. And it is used instead of being the locus for which the connected spare room was used after this spare-room connection end until now, and a maintenance is needed. The sluice valve of the locus and the middle room for which were followed, it was used until now and a maintenance is needed is made close, and these locus are separated from equipment. And the separated locus are moved to somewhere else, a required maintenance is performed, and it changes into the state where it is connectable with equipment immediately at the time of a next maintenance.

[0012] The place where the maintenance was needed from equipment at and locus were separated serves as a connection of a new spare room. Next, the spare room which has the same composition as locus to be maintained here is connected like last time, and the same work as the following is repeated.

[0013] By doing in this way, in a middle room, since a processing room required for a series of membrane formation processes and one more spare room become [that additional connection is made and], although the installation area of equipment is small, equipment can be continuously worked also at the time of a maintenance.

[0014]

[Example] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained using drawing.

[0015] A view 1 is a plan of a multi chamber formula sputtering system having shown one example by this invention. In drawing, the middle room 1 is arranged in the center of this equipment. This middle room 1 is formed in 5 prism configuration, and the sluice valves 2a-2e of the same configuration are formed in each of those sides 1a-1e. And each processing room required for a process is connected to each sluice valves 2a-2d. namely, -- sluice valve 2a -- the load room 3 -- the 2nd sputtering room 6 (ITO membrane formation) is connected [sluice valve 2b / sluice valve 2c] to the 1st sputtering room 5 (aluminum membrane formation) and 2d of sluice valves for the heat chamber 4 at the radial, respectively And preheating room 4' as a new spare room will be connected to the remaining sluice valve 2e in the future so that it may mention later.

[0016] each processing room 3- connected to the middle room 1 -- 6 and 4 -- 'preliminary load room 3' which has the shape of the load room 3 and isomorphism further except, the 1st sputtering room 5, 1st sputtering room of reserve 5' which is isomorphism-like and the 2nd sputtering room 6, and the 2nd sputtering room 6 of a reserve that is isomorphism-like' separate equipment, and is carried out every exception

[0017] In addition, all of each processing rooms 3-6 and 3' - 6' are unit-sized, and the control unit (not shown) of the center for both carrying out supervisory control of the operation of the whole equipment to the middle room bottom is installed in each processing room bottom in the control unit (not shown) required for operation of each processing room. a central control unit -- the control between each processing room -- carrying out -- control of each processing room -- the control unit for every processing room -- a line -- it is like

[0018] Each processing rooms 3-6 have come to be able to carry out desorption easily in a part for the connector area which does not illustrate connection of the control system of the control system for every processing room unit of that, and a central control system, either while bolt connection is made so that desorption can be easily carried out to the middle room 1 in the connections 7a-7e outside sluice valves 2a-2e.

[0019] The turntable T which is the conveyance mechanism which can be freely rotated in the middle room 1 is formed, the substrate khat of the 2nd page method of a vertical mold can rotate on this, and the course can be changed now in the direction of a processing room used as the following process.

[0020] The evacuation system and the substrate khat conveyance mechanism are prepared in the load room 3 and preliminary load room 3' among each processing room. The heater style other than an evacuation system and a substrate khat conveyance mechanism is prepared in a heat chamber 4 and preheating room 4'. The evacuation system, the substrate khat conveyance mechanism, and aluminum sputtering mechanism are prepared in the 1st sputtering room 5 and 1st sputtering room of reserve 5'. It enables it to have formed membranes at this 1st sputtering room, moving a substrate khat so that membranes can be uniformly formed to a large area substrate with a small target. Moreover, the evacuation system, the substrate conveyance mechanism, the ITO sputtering mechanism, and the heater are formed in the 2nd sputtering room 6 and 2nd sputtering room of reserve 6'. Also at the 2nd sputtering room, it can be made to perform move membrane formation.

[0021] The cross section of the substrate khat used for this invention at drawing 2 is shown. Drawing is attached in the perpendicular direction so that two substrate trays 11 which show the time of a substrate khat being in the 2nd sputtering room, and held the substrate in the substrate khat 10 may counter. Between two substrate trays, the interval required for the heater attached in the 2nd sputtering room 6 to pass has opened.

[0022] There is a wheel in the lower part of the substrate khat 10, and conveyance is performed by rolling the rail top prepared in each processing room or the middle room.

[0023] Next, operation of the sputtering system of this composition is explained. First, the substrate khat by which the substrate was laid in the 2nd page is carried in to the load room 3, and evacuation is carried out until it will be from atmospheric pressure in a vacua. Next sluice valve 2a is opened and it sends out to the turntable of the middle room 1, and sluice valve 2a is made close, Turntable T is rotated, and a substrate khat is turned to the 1st sputtering room 5. If it becomes the predetermined sense, after opening sluice valve 2c, conveying a substrate khat in the 1st sputtering room 5 and making sluice valve 2c close, it is set as predetermined membrane formation conditions, and move membrane formation of aluminum is performed. After a membrane formation end, the 1st sputtering room 5 is returned to a vacuum, sluice valve 2c is opened, and a substrate khat is sent out to Turntable T. Next sluice valve 2c is made close, Turntable T is turned to a heat chamber 4, sluice valve 2b is opened, and a substrate khat is conveyed in a heat chamber 4. After making sluice valve 2b close, it heats on condition that predetermined, same conveyance on Turntable T is performed after a heating end, it carries in to the 2nd sputtering room 6, and move membrane formation of an ITO film is performed. After membrane formation of an ITO film is completed, a substrate khat is returned to the load room 3 through the middle room 1, nitrogen gas is introduced

from a vacua, the interior of a room is made into atmospheric pressure, and a substrate khat is taken out outside. By repeating such a series of operation, membranes are formed continuously.

[0024] When the heater of a heat chamber 4 is disconnected accidentally, preheating room 4' is attached in sluice valve 2e, and the control system of preheating room 4' is connected with a central control system. And change of a setup is directed that preheating room 4' which changed to the heat chamber 4 connected to the central control system from the next membrane formation process at sluice valve 2b, and was connected to sluice valve 2e is used as a heat chamber. While preheating room 4' connected to sluice valve 2e operates as a heat chamber from next time by this, the heat chamber 4 which was operating as a heat chamber until now is removed from the system of membrane formation equipment. This heat chamber 4 is separated from the connection which is in the outside of a sluice valve in this state, and the maintenance work of open-circuit repair is done in somewhere else.

[0025] Then, since aluminum target of the 1st sputtering room was exhausted, when it is necessary to carry out target exchange, 1st sputtering room of reserve 5' is connected to sluice valve 2b in which the heat chamber 4 was attached last time at connection 7b. And while connecting the control system of 1st sputtering room of reserve 5' with a central control system, it is directed that 1st sputtering room of reserve 5' replaces the 1st sputtering room 5 from next membrane formation. While 1st sputtering room of reserve 5' connected to sluice valve 2b operates as the 1st sputtering room from next time by this, the 1st sputtering room 5 which has operated as a sputtering room of aluminum until now is removed from a system. And 1st sputtering room 2c is separated from the connection of the outside of sluice valve 2c, and target exchange work is made in somewhere else.

[0026] By connecting to the connection for spare rooms at the time the spare room of the similarly same composition as the processing room for which a maintenance is needed next, the stop time of the equipment for a maintenance is shortened sharply, and this or subsequent ones can continue operation almost continuously.

[0027] In addition, with the multi chamber formula sputtering membrane formation equipment by this invention, although the membrane formation room used two rooms of a move membrane formation method, it is not restricted to this.

[0028] Moreover, in this example, although it had the membrane formation room, the load room, and the heat chamber as a processing room, even if it has not only this but an unload room, a substrate cooling room, and a substrate cleaning room, this invention can be carried out. Moreover, this invention is applicable not only about a sputtering system but plasma CVD equipment, etching systems, or these compound equipments.

[0029]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, as explained, while connecting each processing room required for a membrane formation process with the multi chamber formula membrane formation equipment of this invention on radiation to a middle room The spare room of a processing room which is equipped with the spare room of the same configuration as each of these processing rooms, and does next maintenance work among these by enabling it to connect with the reserve connection of a middle room While being able to shorten the stop time for a maintenance, the installation space of equipment can be made into the minimum.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The plan of the sputtering system which is one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] The cross section of the sputtering-system substrate khat which is one example of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1: Takumi Nakama

2a-2e: Sluice valve

3: A load room, 3' : preliminary load room

4: A heat chamber, 4' : preheating room

5: The 1st sputtering room, 5' : the 1st sputtering room of a reserve

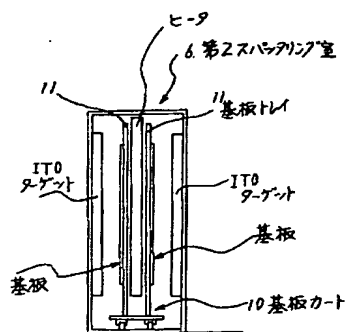
6: The 2nd sputtering room, 6' : the 2nd sputtering room of a reserve

7a-7e: Connection

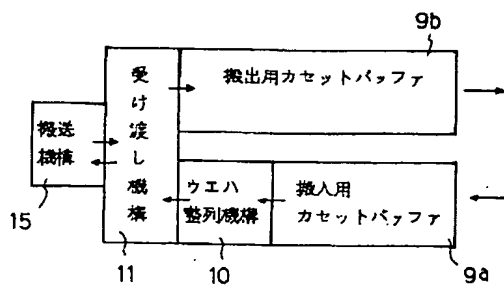
10: Substrate khat

11: Substrate tray

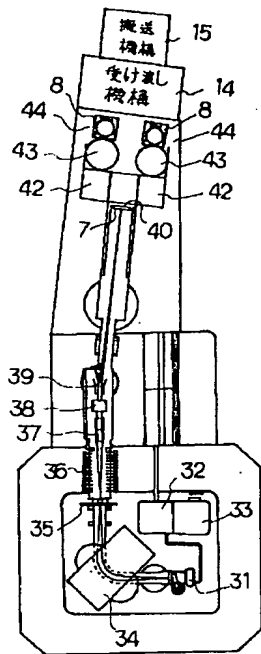
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Drawing selection drawing 2

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Drawing selection drawing 3

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